

**DEDICATION OF THE
FRANCHISE TAX BOARD ROOFTOP SOLAR ARRAY**

**REMARKS BY
AILEEN ADAMS, SECRETARY
STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY**

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 27, 2002**

On behalf of Governor Davis, I am very proud to dedicate today the state's newest and largest solar rooftop panel system – which generates enough electricity to power 200 homes. The system will enable the Franchise Tax Board to meet half of its energy needs. That is an extraordinary accomplishment.

Solar energy lets us use one of California's greatest assets – sunlight – to meet one of our greatest needs – electricity -- without pollution, without noise, and without profiteering energy trading companies like Enron. It improves air quality, builds California's energy independence, reduces our reliance on fossil fuels and out-of-state energy companies, and feeds energy into the electric grid when it is most needed and most expensive.

The leading contributor to global warming is pollution from fossil-fuel fired power plants. This 470 kilowatt solar installation will prevent the release of more than 1 million pounds of CO₂ emissions per year. These emission reductions are equivalent to planting 800,000 trees, removing 4,000 cars from the roadways, or not driving 50 million miles.

Large solar installations like this one play an important role by helping to bring the cost of solar energy down over the long term. Every time the demand for solar energy doubles, the price goes down by about 20%.

California is proud to be home to a growing solar energy movement. San Francisco passed a \$100 million solar bond initiative last fall. That effort was led by David Hochschild, who is with us this morning. Cities throughout the state, from San Diego to Sebastopol, are looking at major investments in solar energy.

Once again, California is at the forefront, and our buildings are playing a key role in our conservation efforts. As many of you know, our Agency coordinated the State's energy conservation campaign, which resulted in a reduction of electricity use of almost 7% overall, and 10% at peak. Everyone, from thousands of CEOs to tens of thousands of schoolchildren, from janitors to building owners, joined in our effort.

But we led by example. We began the campaign by reducing consumption of electricity in major state buildings by 20% or more, and we're still doing it. As in the energy conservation campaign, government can and should play a leadership role in promoting the value of solar energy. We should serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

The FTB building is one of a few state building solar pioneers. We have solar panels on the Cal-EPA headquarters. We have solar panels in the parking lot of Cal-Expo, home of the State Fair. The new Capitol Area East End complex features solar panels on two parking structures and the new Department of Education headquarters. Through the outstanding work of the sustainable building task force, the Department of General Services, and visionary state agencies like the Franchise Tax Board, with critical partners like SMUD, we will have solar panels on other new state buildings. These include the FTB expansion, the new PERS building in downtown Sacramento, and the California Science Center in Los Angeles, to name a few.

My thanks to everyone who helped make this day possible. As a great statesman once said, "First we shape our buildings. Then our buildings shape us." Our hope is that this building helps shape our future, serving as an example in California and indeed throughout the country.